

D#08 STREAM CLASSIFICATION

SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY: This Supplemental Staff Report provides responses to issues that were raised at a Planning Commission meeting regarding amendments to the Renton Municipal Code Development Regulations (Title IV). It also includes additional information that staff has identified as being necessary to include in the analysis for amendments.

General Description

This proposal would allow for the periodic update to the Streams & Lakes Map within the Critical Areas Regulations, based on information provided by governing agencies and stream studies conducted for proposals.

Planning Commission Issue:

The Commission requested that the Streams and Lakes Map be updated in a consistent manner in all of the following instances:

- 1. Reclassification of a stream to a lower classification; or,*
- 2. Reclassification of a stream to a higher classification; or,*
- 3. Mapping an unclassified stream.*

Presently, Renton Municipal Code specifies one method for updating the Streams and Lakes Map when a stream is reclassified to a lower classification. There is no process for reclassifying a stream to a higher classification or for updating the Streams and Lakes Map. The process for mapping of an unclassified stream differs from the other reclassification process. And, the process for the separate mapping of salmonid migration barriers is not clear.

In addition, the Commission requested information as to how public notification would occur for the reclassification of streams.

Staff Response: Staff recommends that a consistent map reclassification and updating process would be beneficial. That process should be as follows:

1. Reclassification of a water body to a lower class requires Administrator acceptance of a supplemental stream or lake study, followed by a legislative amendment to the map (in subsection Q) prior to its effect.
2. Reclassification of a water body to a higher classification requires either Administrator acceptance of a supplemental stream or lake study, or, consultation with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), followed by a legislative amendment to the map (in subsection Q) prior to its effect.
3. Classification of an unmapped stream or lake requires the Administrator's determination, followed by a legislative amendment to the map (in subsection Q) prior to its effect.

4. Mapping of salmonid migration barriers that determine the classification of water bodies requires the Administrator's determination. The Salmonid Migration Barriers map shall be updated as appropriate and a copy maintained in the Community & Economic Development Customer Service Area.

With regard to the public notification required for the reclassification of streams, staff is currently consulting with the City Attorney in order to determine our legal obligation in this regard.